

REMARKS

Claims 1-44, 46-53, and 55-67 were pending in the patent application at the time the Office Action was mailed. Claims 1-10 are amended by this response. No claims are canceled or added by this response. Accordingly, claims 1-44, 46-53, and 55-67 remain pending.

The Office Action rejects all pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,124,856 ("Bryan") either in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,640,498 ("Chew") alone or in view of Chew in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,305,435 ("Bronson"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and requests reconsideration of the pending claims in light of the following response.

Applicant's representative thanks Examiner Singh for her consideration during the telephonic interview completed on February 7, 2007. During that telephonic interview, the parties discussed differences between applicant's technology and the applied references. Applicant has amended claims to further distinguish his technology from the applied references. Additional details are provided below. Should Examiner Singh need further information relating to the telephonic interview, she is requested to contact the undersigned.

As recited, applicant's technology displays modeless windows within document windows. Claim 1 now recites "displaying an application window having a client area; within the client area, displaying a document window; [and] displaying a first modeless window and a second modeless window both wholly within the document window." Thus, as is recited by claim 1, an application's window has a client area that can contain one or more document windows. It is within these document windows that applicant's technology displays the modeless windows. According to the Office Action, Bryan discloses that modeless windows appear within document windows. (Office Action, Page 3.) That is incorrect. In Bryan, the modeless bars appear outside the document window but within the application's client area. See, e.g., Bryan's Figure 3A and 3E. The document window in

those figures is area 312, but the modeless bars (which the Office Action equates to modeless windows) always appear above the document window so as not to interfere with the document's contents. The document window is resized to occupy less space within the client area so that the modeless bars fit. (See, e.g., Bryan, 7:25-8:42.) Claim 11 recites "displaying an application window having a client area; within the client area, displaying a document window; [and] displaying a modeless window in the document window." Claim 19 recites "displaying an application window having a client area; within the client area, displaying a document window; [and] displaying a first modeless window in the document window." Claim 28 recites "displaying an application window having a client area; within the client area, displaying a document window; [and] displaying a first modeless window in the document window." Claim 36 recites "displaying an application window having a client area; within the client area, displaying a document window; [and] displaying in the document window a modeless window." Claim 47 recites "displaying an application window having a client area; within the client area, displaying a document window; [and] displaying in the document window a modeless window." The Office Action does not indicate, and applicant is unable to find, any teaching or suggestion in the remaining applied references of these features. Thus, at least these independent claims are allowable over the applied references.

Applicant's technology anchors collapsed modeless windows to the edge of the document window. None of the applied references teaches or suggests anchoring two or more modeless windows to the edge of the document window, as was discussed during the telephonic interview. Claim 1 has been amended to further define applicant's invention. None of the applied references teaches or suggests anchoring a collapsed modeless window that appears within a document window to the edge of the document window, as was discussed during the telephonic interview.

Conclusion

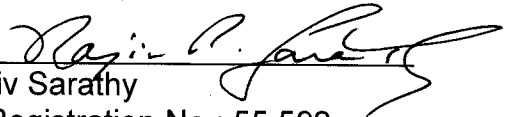
Because the applied references neither teach nor suggest the features discussed above, the independent claims cannot be rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Because the dependent claims import the limitations from the claims on which they depend, they also cannot be rejected under that statute. Moreover, the claims recite a novel combination of elements that is neither taught nor suggested by the applied references.

Based on the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-6478.

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Respectfully submitted,

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